

## Bad Aibling educator named Bavaria District teacher of the year

Department of Defense  
Dependents Schools  
Release

A Bad Aibling teacher has been selected as teacher of the year for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools' Bavaria District.

Dr. Ronald McIntire, Bavaria District superintendent, announced the selection of David Becher of Bad Aibling American School Sept. 23.

Becher teaches English, Spanish and journalism at Bad Aibling, which is a "unit school" housing kindergarten through 12th grade.

Becher has been at Bad Aibling School since 1998. Prior to that, he taught at St. Lawrence School in Louisville, Ky. He holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University Southeast and a master's degree from Nova Southeastern University.

### 'I believe in education'

Becher said his philosophy of teaching is that all of life is a learning process and that a teacher needs to give students the drive to continue learning past high school.

"I recognize that learning is best attained through interesting and entertaining methods," he wrote in his teacher of the year application packet.

"I believe students will benefit from each other as much as from me ... I have faith that each student has the ability to become a creative, intelligent and independent thinker. I believe in education," he wrote.

In her nomination letter, Bad Aibling Principal Kathleen Reiss wrote, "I have taught in six different schools and was a liaison of five curricular areas in a district of 20 schools. Because of this background, I have had the opportunity to work directly with hundreds of teachers. If I were to choose the five most outstanding teachers that I have worked with, Mr. Becher would be in that group."

Becher will serve as the director of the DoDDS-Europe Junior Leadership Seminar this year. He is also a member of several professional organizations.



Becher

*'I believe students will benefit from each other as much as from me. I have faith that each student has the ability to become a creative, intelligent and independent thinker. I believe in education.'*

**David Becher**  
DoDDS Bavaria District  
Teacher of the Year

### About the program

Each year, the Department of Defense Education Activity joins states across the nation in the search for a teacher of the year. States (and DoDEA) look for teachers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching.

In a tribute to previous teachers of the year, U.S. President George W. Bush said, "Teachers make extraordinary contributions to the communities in which they live and, therefore, make extraordinary contributions to our entire country. We give our teachers a great responsibility: to shape the minds and hopes of our children. We owe them our thanks and our praise and our support."

As school began in September 2003, district superintendents in DoDDS-Europe began accepting nomination packages of dedicated and highly skilled candidates capable of inspiring students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Each district superintendent was allowed to submit one district teacher of the year to compete for the DoDEA title.

The application packets of the five DoDDS district honorees have been forwarded to DoDEA headquarters for the DoDEA Teacher of the Year Recognition Program. The DoDEA winner will represent the organization in the National Teacher of the Year Program.

## Marshall Center sponsors border security conference

Marshall Center Release

The postcard setting of Lake Bled, Slovenia, served as the backdrop for a four-day conference on border security organized by the George C. Marshall Center in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Slovenian Ministry of Defense.

The conference drew experts from 10 nations to discuss ways to improve border security among the members of the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial Process.

"The safety of the world requires a unity in Europe from which no nation should be permanently outcast," said Johnny Young, the U.S. ambassador to Slovenia. Young said SEDM is important because it provides a valuable political and military framework and promotes cooperation between countries with common security goals.

"SEDM's 'can-do' spirit exemplifies what the United States and its allies want to encourage, not just in Southeast Europe, but around the globe: a growing pattern of cooperation, focused on practical problem-solving and security-building measures," Young said.

Security experts helped attendees evaluate the threat of transnational terrorist groups in the SEDM region and address border security responses to the weapons of mass destruction threat. They also addressed how the military can support civilian agencies and provided guidance for cross-border operations and exercises.

In addition, attendees received information on new technologies, legal issues, the role of cooperative security organizations in border security and methods of obtaining technical advice.

Though conference attendees were presented with a wealth of information, they were not simply passive participants. While international and regional experts presented concepts and case studies based on their experiences, the attendees challenged many of the issues discussed and presented their ideas and proposals for enhancing future cooperation.

Retired Maj. Gen. Mike McCarthy, deputy director of the Marshall Center, said conferences like this are essential to strengthening the democracies of Eastern Europe.



C.E. Taylor

**Johnny Young, U.S. ambassador to Slovenia, addresses members of the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial Process in Slovenia.**

### Bad Aibling hosts German-American Friendship Festival

Members of the German and American communities joined together for a parade to celebrate the German American Friendship Festival, which opened Oct. 2 on Bad Aibling Station.

Opportunities to honor the relationship between the two communities are dwindling as the closure of Bad Aibling Station approaches.



Kim Jannsen

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